stata capitata Hentz, which consists of a pair of straight rows of rather long, flattened, and blunt, closely-set bristles or rods, 25 to 28 in number, situate at each side upon the inner surface and at the base of the first joints of the inferior spinnerets, closely over the underlying cribellum. From its structure and position, the speaker infers that these two peculiar comb-like organs might act as an accessory calamistrum. These organs have heretofore been overlooked by arachnologists, which is the more remarkable as they appear also in the common European species, *Filistata testacea*, as the speaker is informed by Prof. Thorell.

JUNE 27, 1889.

Nine persons present. President Schwarz in the chair.

Mr. G. W. J. Angell, of New York City, was elected a corresponding member of the Society.

In a note on May beetles, Dr. Marx stated that in the forests of Tuchel, near Graudenz, Prussia, comprising 16 forestry districts, 30,000 litres of beetles (*Melolontha vulgaris*) had been collected this season in each district, or in all 480,000 litres of beetles. One litre will contain 450 beetles, thus making a total of 216 millions destroyed.

Referring to the appearance of the Periodical Cicada in the District of Columbia, Prof. J. B. Smith said that on June 22d he had heard the Cicadas singing on the old oak trees on the 7th street road, not far from Soldiers' Home.

Mr. Ashmead read the following paper:

AN ANOMALOUS CHALCID.

BY WM. H. ASHMEAD.

The little Chalcid, the subject of my remarks, and which I shall have the pleasure of showing you to-night, is not only one of the most anomalous of forms in the family *Chalcididæ*, but, on account of the peculiarity of the wings, one of the most remarkable insects in the order Hymenoptera.

It was captured at large by my lamented friend Dr. R. S. Turner, at Fort George, Florida, and was only recently discovered among a quantity of unexamined material in this family that, for want of time, I have left unstudied.

In nearly all of the hymenopterous families are forms that present marked structural peculiarities, spines or horns on the head, scutellum, metathorax, coxæ, femora, or abdomen; but none have yet been described with spines on the wings, as is the case with our little Chalcid.

This Chalcid belongs to the sub-family *Eulophinæ*, but the cephalic, scutellar and wing characters are too anomalous for it to be placed in any of the known genera, and it will therefore require the erection of a new genus for its reception.

The head is very broad, much broader than the thorax, the occiput deeply concave, and the vertex very thin antero-posteriorly, while the lower portion, about the region of the mouth, is abnormally thickened or swollen, the mandibles being remarkably small– almost obsolete—and when viewed from the side a deep incision is seen between them and the clypeus, giving it a very peculiar appearance.

The antennæ are normal, agreeing with many other forms in this group, and the thorax does not differ greatly from many forms both in the sub-family *Eulophinæ* and *Elachistinæ*, except that the shoulders are much more prominent than usual.

The scutellum differs decidedly in that the grooves diverge posteriorly, and then curve and meet, forming a perfect frenum.

The abdomen is remarkable only for its long petiole, this being longer than in any other form yet discovered.

But what renders this Chalcid the most anomalous of hymenopters is the wings, the superior pair having a distinct conical spine covered with dense bristles (or it may be a dense tuft of bristles) on the superior margin, at about where the submarginal nervure runs into the marginal, the character and use of which cannot be imagined, nor can one imagine the cause that induced the development of so remarkable an appendage.

If such an anomalous appendage had been developed in a male, we should have at once attributed it to sexual development, either as an adornment to please the fancy of the females, or as an armament development in the battles of the males for their favors.

It is to be hoped that the male will soon be discovered, so we can see just what remarkable structural peculiarities he will present, and in what respect he differs from the female.

For the reception of this chalcid, I have erected a new genus under the name *Hoplocrepis*, and the species may be known as *Hoplocrepis albiclavus*, the descriptions of which are as follows:

Hoplocrepis, n. g.

Head very wide, much wider than the widest part of the thorax; the occiput deeply concave, leaving the vertex very thin antero-posteriorly, the 3 ocelli arranged in a row on the sharp edge thus formed; the face subconvex and the lower portion abnormally thickened through from throat to frons; the mandibles are extremely small, nearly obsolete, and between them and the swollen face, when viewed from the side, is seen a peculiar deep incision.

Eyes large, oval, occupying more than two-thirds of the side of the head, leaving quite a wide space between them and the base of the mandibles.

Antennæ 8-jointed, inserted just above the clypeus; the scape very long and slender, about as long as the flagellum, excluding the club; and when drawn close to the face extends slightly beyond the ocelli; pedicel cyathiform; joints of funicle 4, compressed about as in *Sympiesis* Först., the first joint a little longer than the second, considerably longer than wide, the last two being about as long as wide; club 2-jointed, about half the width of the funicular joints.

Thorax smooth, parapsides distinct, the shoulders very prominent, convex; collar conical, the length of the mesonotum, and arranged along its posterior margin are six black bristles; *scutellum* convex, with two grooves, the grooves diverging posteriorily and then curving around and meeting, forming a complete frenum, and two black bristles at base.

Legs moderately long, slender, the posterior pair much the longest; coxæ conical, the middle and posterior pairs contiguous, the last pair being the longest; all tibiæ with one weak apical spur; tarsi 4-jointed, basal and second joint about equal, two following short.

Abdomen ovate, depressed, longly petiolated, the petiole longer than posterior coxæ, slender, cylindrical, attached to the metathorax on a line above the posterior coxæ; ovipositor slightly exserted.

Wings with venation similar to *Sympiesis*, with two conical spines densely covered with black bristles, in appearance similar to the tuft on the scutellum in the Encyrtid genera *Comys* and *Chiloneurus*, and situated on the upper margin at about one-third the length of the wing.

The head, scutellum, attachment of the abdomen to metathorax, and the wing characters at once distinguish this genus from any other in the subfamilies *Eulophinæ* and *Elachistinæ*, the only groups in which the genus could be placed.

Hoplocrepis albiclavus, *n. sp.*

♀. Length 1.5 mm. Pale brownish-yellow. Eyes black. Antennal scape long, slender, yellowish; flagellum brown; club white. Coxæ and petiole white; basal portion of abdomen and three or four ventral segments beneath pale yellowish, the rest of the abdomen dark brown. Wings hyaline, with two transverse brown bands extending entirely across the wings, the first narrow at about one-third the length of the wing, and including the abnormal spines or tufts; the second is about three times the width of the first, with only a small clear space between it and the first band; the whole apex of the wings clear.

Described from a single specimen captured by the late Dr. R. S. Turner, at Fort George, Florida.

Mr. Howard said that the spines on the forewings were probably bunches of bristles, and that the collection of the Department of Agriculture contained a species having similar bristles on the forewings. Mr. Schwarz spoke of the occurrence, in Coleoptera, of spines on the elytra, mentioning genera in several families.